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# COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROLIFERATION AND TERRORISM

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## **Comments from the Chair and Vice Chair Senators Bob Graham (D-FL) and Jim Talent (R-MO)**

on the  
House of Representatives  
WMD Preparedness and Prevention Act of 2010  
June 10, 2010

We applaud the Committee's initiative and bipartisan leadership demonstrated by this comprehensive approach to improving America's biodefense capabilities. Moving this bill quickly through the legislative process, and to the President's desk for signature, will be an incredibly important step in improving America's biodefense posture.

We have worked closely with the committee and staff through a broad range of biodefense issues:

- Finding the right balance between ensuring the safety and security of our bio labs, while guaranteeing the freedom required to perform critically important research;
- Providing the funding required to enhance biosecurity in laboratories;
- Improving information sharing and risk assessment processes for biothreats;
- Improving communications regarding biothreats and greater openness with the American public;
- Improved individual and community preparedness;
- Developing a national strategy for biosurveillance;
- Improving situational awareness capabilities;
- Providing training for law enforcement personnel on bioforensic procedures;
- Providing detailed guidance on biodefense to first responders;
- Developing guidelines for recovery and remediation operations;
- Investigating the potential threats posed by advances in synthetic biology;
- Improving the dispensing of medical countermeasures in an emergency;
- Exploring options to provide first responders vaccines from the National Stockpile on a voluntary basis;
- Developing and implementing a global architecture for WMD preparedness.

This legislation reaches across many committees and agency jurisdictions. Our years of experience in Congress tell us this bill will require vigorous support from Congressional leadership on both sides of the aisle.

We pledge our full support, and will work closely with Congressional leadership, Members, and staff during the legislative process.